DECEMBER 2012



Welcome to the OKRA online newsletter. Please feel free to share our newsletter with anyone who might enjoy reading it. To receive electronic notification of newsletter availability and general recycling announcements, sign-up for the OKRA list server on our

website: www.recycleok.org

America Recycles Day Award Banquet 2012 Recognizes Oklahoma's Recycling Heroes

by Annie Brady

The 12th annual America Recycles Day Awards Banquet started out with delicious hors d'oeuvres and wine while everyone chatted in the Downtown DoubleTree's front foyer. We were graced with the piano skills of Kent Dennis while we were served a three course meal.



OK Recycling Educator: Ruth Askew Brelsford, Eastern Oklahoma State College, with students Ashley Jones and Reilly Cloud

other holiday. Tom Hill, CEO of American Waste Control, Inc. presented the great accomplishments of his company in the recycling industry.

Finally the Awards were presented and received with much excitement by our Heroes. Of course, this would not have

Michael Patton, The M.e.t.'s Executive Director gave a speech on the importance of America Recycles Day and how we should appreciate it like any



OK Recycling Event: Jessica Hargis, Sustainability Director, Route 66 Marathon

been possible without our sponsors: American Waste Control, Inc. with Mr. Murph, AbiBow, Sam's Club, Holly Refining and Marketing – Tulsa LLC, National Waste and Disposal, Inc., Natural Evolution, Inc., Lafarge, Oklahoma Recycling Association, Call2Recycle, AEP/PSO and Tulsa Beautification Foundation.

Congratulations to our 2012 Oklahoma Recycling Heroes! 2012 Oklahoma Recycling School: Owasso GreenTeam 2012 Oklahoma Recycling Non-Profit: Pride In McAlester 2012 Oklahoma Recycling Educator: Ruth Askew Brelsford 2012 Oklahoma Recycling Event: Route 66 Marathon 2012 Oklahoma Recycling Business: Spirit AreoSystems 2012 Oklahoma Recycling Government: T.A.R.E.

2012 Oklahoma Recycler of the Year: Kenneth Burkett

> Congrats to the 2012 Oklahoma Recycling Heroes!





OK Recycler of the Year: Kenneth Burkett

OKRA ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE 2012 ARD HIGH SCHOOL PSA CONTEST

Congratulations to the winners of the 2012 America Recycles Day Public Service Announcement Contest!

- ♦ 1st Place; Michael Moss, Tulsa Union Alternative School - \$500 to the winning group, and \$100 to Tulsa Union Alternative School
- 2nd place; Makenna Smith, McAlester High School
 \$300 to the winning group and \$50 to McAlester High

 3rd place; Madison Taylor, McAlester High School -\$150 to the winning group and \$50 to McAlester High

All students did an excellent job and put in a lot of hard work! Please congratulate all participants and their teachers. This contest would not be possible without sponsorships from Greenstar Recycling, OG&E, and OKRA.

View the winning photos at at http://www.recycleok.org/okra/oklahoma-events-activities/psa-contest.

OKRA HOSTS 2012 OKLAHOMA RECYCLING CONFERENCE

Solid Waste Management Resource Trunk display

By Chris Feeney

Over 120 avid recyclers and exhibitors joined together at the annual OKRA Recycling Conference on Friday, October 12, 2012 in Stillwater, OK to discuss and share information related to recycling and sustainability in Oklahoma. The conference began with a welcome by OKRA President, Traci Phillips. As has become an annual treat, Michael Patton of the M.e.t. then discussed trends, history, and the future of recycling commodity pricing and consumption.

George Dreckmann of Madison, Wisconsin awed participants by sharing the history and progress of their recycling program. Madison's

diverse program includes curbside recycling, brush and leaf collection, yard waste drop-off sites, appliance and scrap metal collection, ewaste, cooking oil, batteries, rigid plastics, polystyrene, wood waste, composting, and motor oil/filters. Mr. Dreckmann likened Madison to communities in Oklahoma. Madison looks at recycling as a required service and budgets accordingly to ensure the already diverse

program continues to expand and increase.

Panels discussing "What Happens after the E-Waste Event" and "Oklahoma Products Made from Recycled Materials" enlightened participants with question and answer sessions to encourage completion of the recycling circle. A buffet lunch was followed by powerful keynote speaker, Lisa Skumatz of Skumatz Economic Research Associates and a discussion of "Pay As You Throw" programs around the nation. This discussion included PAYT incentives, programs,



Conference attendees ask questions during a panel session

This year's

conference

could not

policies and legislation, and infrastructure. A few locales in Oklahoma are already using PAYT programs while others continue to research the possibility. Call2Recycle discussed rechargeable battery recycling methods and locations.

Robert Pickens of Greenstar Recycling led a panel to discuss recycling at work and at school.



Platinum Sponsor, Greenstar Recycling, ready to visit with conference attendees

have happened without the vendors and sponsors such as Greenstar Recycling, ODEQ, OEMA, OSU, Choctaw Nation, OG&E, SWANA, Waste Connections, Keep Oklahoma Beautiful, Natural Evolution, Inc., and Ardmore Beautification Council. Powerpoint presentations from the conference can be found at http://www.okrecycle.org/okra.oklahomaevents-activities.

This past fall, The Metropolitan Environmental Trust (The M.e.t.) partnered with the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and Tulsa Master Gardeners to create Compost Everything. This partnership was created to promote all things composting. Over the month of October there were many activities to educate the citizens of Tulsa on composting. There were meetings, webinars, discounted compost bin sales and a seminar.

Along with these activities came educational materials and a website OKRA News Dec 2012 - Page 2

called CompostEverything.net. This website is Tulsa's resource for everything on composting. It will be updated with links, brochures and materials to further one's learning on composting.

This was a very successful fall program and events will begin again in the spring of 2013. Please stay updated with the Compost Everything

website and Facebook.

everything by Annie Brady, The M.e.t.

Chickasha Incentive Program Aims to Increase Recycling Participation

OKLAHOMA CITY – The city of Chickasha recently started offering curbside recycling pickup, and has found a way to pre-

vent people from throwing garbage in the recycle bin: reward recyclers by the pound.

Waste Connections contracts with the city to provide the service and uses a banking concept to encourage people to recycle more. When renegotiating its refuse contract, the waste hauler streamlined the pickup service to Chickasha residents, so that the only fee increase is to match cost of living.

For every pound of recycling a neighborhood produces, individual customers get 2.5 points. The points add up to rewards

that can be used at local retailers, such as Dunn's Food Center grocery store, and Brandt's Ace Hardware.

Brenda Merchant, state sales and municipal contract manager with Waste Connections, said the system is like frequent-flier miles for recycling. It is designed to encourage individuals, but also get people to encourage their neighbors to recycle more, too.

"The average household can earn about \$10 in rewards value, but it is not actual dollars," Merchant said. "We have some super recyclers who earn \$40 a month in rewards. It's like offsetting your garbage bill every month."

Some small cities have had problems with people using recycling bins to dispose of more garbage.

In Mustang, part of the problem is that the recycling bins are priced less than the garbage bins, said David Griesel, general manager of the Oklahoma Environmental Management Authority. The authority runs the El Reno landfill and works with the city of Mustang's curbside recycling program.

"Some people in Mustang have utilized the recycling cart as an additional trash cart for lesser cost," Griesel said.



Waste Connections driver empties a polycart into new trash truck in Chickasha. Streamlined service allowed city to offer expanded curbside recycling and trash service without dramatically increasing rates. (Photo by Brent Fuchs)

Chickasha City Manager Stewart Fairburn said more education about what and how to recycle is still needed. The city previously used alley service and there was no limit to how many bags people could throw out each week. Under the new contract, trash and recycling are now picked up in polycarts, or standardized plastic bins, which can be automatically emptied.

"Beautification is one benefit to the new system," Fairburn said. "We can add services to the curbside pickup, and reduce the waste stream."

Merchant said it will take time for people to understand what can't be put in the recycle bins, such as shrink-wrap or plastic bags. Many plastic bags and shrink-wrap are marked with a triangular recycle symbol, which often causes confusion. However, waste processors that sort the recyclables expect some contamination of nonrecyclables and soiled recyclable materials; about 3- to 5-percent contamination is normal, she said. When contamination is more than 25 percent of recyclables, Griesel said, it cuts into the bottom line.

"Our truck is equipped with a red button, and if the contamination is obvious, the driver won't dump the cart," Merchant said. "They do not get to participate in Recycle Bank that day, if contamination is blatant."

Fairburn said he hopes to eventually expand the program to multifamily residential units and commercial businesses.

-by Sara Terry-Cobo
OKC Energy Reporter-The Journal Record

E-Waste & Paper Poundage Collected/Reported for America Recycles Day

Over 150 people took advantage of Ardmore's America Recycles Day event, Thursday, Nov 15, to shred privacy papers at Citizens Bank and Trust, Ardmore, Oklahoma. The paper was fragmented on site so people bringing in boxes of unwanted files, etc. could view the items being destroyed. According to Nancy Sjulin, Citizens Bank and Trust, 9,536 pounds of paper were eliminated. Sjulin said, "We offer this event twice a year with Ardmore Beatification Council (ABC) as a community service! People really like having a safe way to get rid of privacy papers they no longer need."

Lena Sullivan, ABC recycling chair, reported that United Electronic Recycling, LLC, drove away with 4,734 pounds of e-

waste after the event. Sullivan commented, "They have been a great partner in this effort. UER has contracts in other communities where a roll-off box is available for residents to get rid of their e-waste. When the roll-off is full city officials contact UER and the e-waste is hauled away. This would be a great solution to the e-waste in our area. We think if this arrangement were available in Ardmore people from across Southern Oklahoma would use it." Sullivan mentioned another shred day and e-waste event will be scheduled in March 2013.



by The Ardmore Beautification Council

RECYCLE MOORE!

The Recycle Moore program was recognized by the National League of Cities (NLC) as a model program demonstrating innovative and collaborative approaches within government. Recycle Moore was one of 27 municipal programs selected for the 2012 City Showcase - NLC's premiere program celebrating city achievements.

The Recycle Moore education campaign encourages citizens to bring recyclables to the Moore Recycle facility, 400 N Telephone Rd, to help visitors from another planet. These out-of-this-world visitors - called Mooretians - need the materials to fuel their ship and return home safely.

TAKE US TO WILL LITTER

The City of Moore wrapped an iconic water tower along Interstate 35 with a 130-footlong banner using the campaign's sci-fi slogan and art.

The program was highlighted during this year's Congress of Cities and Exposition, held in Boston, MA, November 28-December 1. During the conference, representatives from Moore engaged in networking and knowledge-sharing with colleagues from around the country.

"The City of Moore offers many outstanding programs to its residents. We are proud that our Recycle Moore program was selected to be showcased at the NLC Conference in November," stated City Manager Steve Eddy.



Together the programs selected encompass a wide range of geographical locations, city sizes and topic areas. For more information on this year's City Showcase, visit: http://www.nlc.org/build-skills-and-networks/resources/city-showcase

The National League of Cities is dedicated to helping city leaders build better communities. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

by Jayme Shelton

Northeastern State University's (NSU) Green-A-Thon Promotes Recycling Awareness



In October, students, faculty and staff at NSU were encouraged to participate in the 2012 Green-A-Thon. The event con-

and trophies. Judging was based on criteria such as functionality, creativity, attractiveness. Teams had to provide their own materials and use only recyclable material such as twine, PET bottles, and cardboard.

Deanie Hensley, Assistant Director of Auxiliary Ser-

vices at NSU, says
the event was wellreceived on
campus and NSU
anticipates even
greater response in
their Spring 2013
recycling challenge.



In addition to the

Green-A-Thon, NSU also hosted a flash mob to introduce a recycling kiosk located in the underground of the University Center. OKRA commends NSU for their efforts to promote recycling on campus.

sisted of constructing buildings with reused or recycled materials, with the goal of raising awareness of recycling initiatives.

Teams competed for cash prizes

SAVE THE DATE!

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Oklahoma Indian Nations Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) 2013 Spring Symposium

March 26-28, 2013, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Catoosa, OK

More info available soon at www.swanachapters.org/ok/Calendar.aspx

How to Host a E-cycling Event Step by Step

by John Hayes, United Electronics Recycling (jhayes@unitedrecycling.com)

Step 1

Find an advocate organization with a cause:

Such as, your city government, non-profits, civic organizations or businesses

Fee or Fundraiser?

In some cases the city or organization will pay a flat fee to have a recycler participate. Between \$500 and \$1000 is not uncommon

If you are charging fees for certain items be sure to note this on all advertisements. Charges might include \$5 for CRT monitors and \$10 for TVs. In some cases there can be a charge for all e-waste by the pound.

Fundraisers can be helpful. Work with Kiwanis clubs, churches, etc. Recently an organization in Yukon, OK worked with United Electronic Recycling to raise several thousands of dollars in the "Re-light the Historical Mill on Route 66" event. The next event there is April 27th 10am- 3 pm. The fundraising organization generally provides most of the marketing, and coordinates volunteers for the event.

Step 2

Set date & location:

Usually these events are held on a Saturday between 9 am to 1 pm or so, in the spring and fall and from 10am to 2 pm in the winter months. Usually events are held twice a year, in the spring and fall, or on annual basis. Keep in mind America Recycle Day is Nov 15th. Be consistent and watch the event grow time after time!

Step 3

Marketing effort: Begin immediately. There is no such thing as "Too Much" promotion!

Get the word out to support groups

Chambers of Commerce, Civic organizations, associations, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, County Government, Churches, Schools, City Hall, landfill or waste management company – Get the City to support the event and broadcast the event details via water bills and newsletters!

Contact all other recycling locations and companies in the area! Don't limit your effort. It takes a lot of publicity to get the word out.

Marketing material

First, create a marketing flier to e-mail out to everyone in the area. Ask people to forward it to everyone in their address book. Have at least one person, or a committee, do a downtown business flyer drop-off, door to door!

Advertising- These tasks can be shared by committee members!

PSA's-Public Service Announcements are usually free. Display ads in the largest newspaper and all the free pick-meups in the area! This is usually done heavily in the last 2-4

weeks before the event.

Fax blasting - Fax a flyer to all the fax numbers in the phone book or with any directories, such as the Chamber of Commerce.

Signs - A sign at the location can be put up a month before the event is to happen with the date, time, and description.

Social Network Marketing - Get everyone talking about this on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and via email blasting!

Company Pickups - Be sure and make known that your recycling partner can provide bulk pickups for large loads (over two pallets in size). You might have a few to pick up before or after the main event.

Step 4

Event set up for E-waste recycler:

Transportation: A box truck size is suitable for a city with a population of 15k-50k. Consider arranging access to lease or have extra trucks available for populations over 50k.

Start with six pallets spread out close to the truck and away from traffic flow. Use one for each category: CPUs, monitors, printers and copiers, miscellaneous

items (such as vacuums, microwaves, etc.), TVs, and a Gaylord box (4x4) for small items such as cords, mice, key boards.

Supplies needed: water, plastic wrap, tape, Gaylord boxes, pallet jack, straps, orange cones, banners and signs, and pallets.

Palletize with plastic wrap as it stakes items up for better safety.

Cones for traffic flow area are advised with signs showing direction of traffic flow and company advertisement.

Location needs to be on pavement or a surface suitable for pallet jack maneuvering. A 40ft by 30ft location should be sufficient for the pallets and truck.

Have at least two company-trained workers and up to a half a dozen volunteers, Even more for bigger events!

Be prepared to allocate one individual as spokesperson for newspaper or TV interviews, if applicable.

Other things to consider...

Event Partnership Alliances: Invite other recyclers to join and ask them to promote the event with all their customers, contacts and marketing efforts.

COD: Certificates of Destruction can be sent to the entity that put the event together and copies sent to any company that wants it for their records.

Join the State Electronics Challenge! Tools and Resources Help Meet Sustainability Goals

The State Electronics Challenge (SEC) is a free, voluntary program that harnesses the purchasing power and resources of the public sector to change the way office equipment is designed, used and disposed of. The program supports and recognizes an agency's efforts to buy office equipment that meets ENERGY STAR and EPEAT requirements. SEC partners enjoy cost savings, as well as tangible environmental benefits—energy conservation, greenhouse gas avoidance, and reductions in solid and hazardous waste.

Any state and local government agency, tribal government, school, college, university, or other public or non-profit entity can be an SEC Partner. SEC Partners focus on one or more of the three phases of the office equipment lifecycle:

- Buying or leasing equipment that meets EPEAT requirements (which include ENERGY STAR);
- Using equipment efficiently, reducing paper and energy use and extending the life of the equipment; and
- Recycling unwanted equipment responsibly using certified electronics recyclers.

Joining provides access to SEC support and implementation tools and technical assistance, including:

 Answers to key questions to help you prepare to speak with vendors and others in your organization;

- Model policies, procurement language, operating procedures, and manuals;
- Examples of similar agencies and organizations that are already SEC partners;
- Partner-only webinars on emerging issues;
- Tools to help track efforts and document impacts particularly highlighting sustainability indicators like energy use, GHG avoidance, toxics use reduction, and recycled content; and
- Sustainability Reports documenting material, energy and cost savings to support agency sustainability goals.

The SEC also provides awards and recognition to partners with exemplary programs. Partners that have targeted one lifecycle phase are eligible for Bronze Awards. A commitment to address two lifecycle phases is required for Silver Awards. Entities that address all three lifecycle phases are eligible for Gold Awards. SEC Awards and Sustainability Reports can be helpful in raising the profile of an organization's efforts and justifying the resources invested in environmentally preferable purchasing programs.

To learn more, including the next SEC introductory webinar, visit the SEC website at www.stateelectronicschallenge.net.

News from the Ada Recycling Coalition

City of Ada Mayor, Greg McCortney, proclaimed November 15 as "America Recycles Day in Ada," during the Ada Recycling Coalition's monthly meeting. ARC meets the second Wednesday each month in the Library.

At right (from left to right): Stan Fullingim (Recycling Coordinator) Doug Weirick, Mayor McCortney, Deanna Piercy and Lisa Sharp.







This year for America Recycles Day, the Ada Recycling Coalition gave away two compost tumblers and a rain barrel. A drawing was held using pledge cards to promote recycling and conservation. Trudy Nevland and Dana Nickell (ARC) presented the winners with their prizes.

At left (from left to right): Dana Nickell, Michelle Ellison, Jennifer Ray, Casey McCaskill and Trudy Nevland.

Become a certified Tulsa Master Recycler 10 week class begins February 12, 2013; 6pm to 8pm O.S.U. Tulsa 700 North Greenwood Cost \$20.00

Contact Tulsa Master Recyclers Association (918) 592-1466 or e-mail tulsamra@yahoo.com for registration information



Waste is just a Perception!

(An Industrial Example)
by Robert A. Hall, Big 4 Filtration, 918-663-3143

A manufacturer in Tulsa ran up against hazardous waste regulations with their dust collector filters. To keep the workplace healthy and prevent air pollution, the fumes and dust from welding and grinding operations were caught by a dust collector which contained 27 cartridge style air filters. Under normal operations the cartridges were changed out annually, although the company admitted it should have occurred more frequently.

Each new filter for the dust collector costs \$110. The cost to dispose of the dirty filters is \$200 each. The large disposal cost results from the chromium content of the welding fumes and grinding dust. Total Chromium content of the dust was over twice the limit for disposal in a general municipal landfill.

No metal recycling operation in Tulsa would accept the dirty filters because there was a great potential for the Chromium laden dust in the filters to be released to the air when the filters were shredded at the metal recyclers facility. Only a "Hazardous Waste Incinerator" had adequate air quality protection from the high Chromium content dust.

The engineer given the task to handle the filter change-out thought there should be a less expensive alternative. After reading a newspaper article about a company, Big 4 Filtration, that was recycling air filters he gave them a call. Big 4 Filtration proposed that, instead of perceiving the filters as "disposable," to consider them "reusable," similar to work uniforms. Big 4 Filtration could "wet wash" the dirty filters and return them for use multiple times. Since the filters are not being "discarded" they would not be perceived as "waste" but rather "dirty" and could be "cleaned" for reuse.

To develop the cleaning process Big 4 Filtration began with the "Technical Instructions" from a major filter manufacture. (Most major filter manufacturers provide instructions on how their air filters should be cleaned for multiple uses, although the instructions are normally buried deep in the lists of "Technical Literature Available.") Through 30 years of trial and error a wet process that cleans cartridge style air filters to almost new performance was developed. Quality control checks for pinholes, tears, structural integrity, and air flow are included at the end of the process.

No filter efficiency is lost during the cleaning; the filters will still remove the dust from the air. Only a small amount of filter capacity is sacrificed. Filters that are recycled will reach the maximum recommended flow restriction level at about 95% of the time of a new filter, making slightly earlier filter chang-

ing necessary in some cases. Costs for the entire process generally run about 50% of the cost of a new filter. Filters that are recycled can be "cleaned" a number of times, until the Quality Control criteria are not met. It is common to recycle filters up to eight times before the QC failure rate becomes excessive.

After 30 years of operation in a lean-to building attached to a warehouse, Big 4 Filtration moved to a new filter recycling plant. The new plant was designed to catch the particulates cleaned out of recycled filters. The sump pit that collects the dirt from the "cleaning process" is periodically cleaned and the dust disposed appropriately. The new operations were reviewed by the City of Tulsa and it was determined that no industrial discharge permit would be required, because a dirt trap was installed in the sewer line.

After all things being considered the manufacturer decided that the best plan for them was to have Big 4 Filtration recycle the filters. When the "clean" recycled filters no longer pass quality control parameters the filters are delivered to a metals recycler for extraction of the steel. The overall annual savings to the manufacturer is \$6720, just by perceiving their filters as re-usable rather than disposable.

Recycle that Cooking Oil!

By Kristi Shreve

So you fried a turkey for Thanksgiving and you don't know what to do with that leftover oil...simple, recycle it! Leftover vegetable-based cooking oils can easily be recycled into many different types of commodities like, biodiesel, feed fat, cosmetics, and even bioplastics.

Never pour fats, oils or grease down the drain. When cooking oils or greasy foods are disposed of down a household drain, the fat, oil, and grease can clog pipes and sewer lines. This can cause raw sewage to back out of the sewer and into people's homes, businesses, and local rivers and streams. Such problems can occur any time of year, but are particularly prevalent when the weather turns colder and around the holidays, when people put many leftover fatty food scraps down the drain or incorrectly dispose of cooking oils.

Prevent costly home plumbing bills and protect the environment by recycling your used cooking oils. In the Tulsa area, you can drop-off your cooking oils at any nearby M.e.t. recycling depot. A list of locations can be found at www.metrecycle.com. For other Oklahoma communities, check with your household pollutant collection facilities, or check your yellow pages for local cooking oil recycling businesses.

Remember fats, oils, and grease aren't just bad for arteries; they are bad for sewers, too.

For more information about proper fats, oils, and grease disposal, visit: www.TrapTheGreaseTulsa.com.

Thanks to Our 2012 OKRA Members!

Platinum Corporate Member

Greenstar Recycling

Silver Corporate Members

Goodwill Industries of Central OK OGE Energy Corp.
Oklahoma Environmental Mgmt Authority

Bronze Corporate Members

Big 4 Filtration Choctaw Nation Natural Evolution, Inc. Waste Connections of Oklahoma, Inc.

Corporate Members

All Points Recycling
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Dryvit Systems
Harley Hollan Companies
Keepin' Enid Green
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NCED Marriott Conference Center
Oklahoma Roll Off
Professional Recyclers, Inc.
Rockmore Technology
Tinsley Company

United Electronic Recycling

City of Stillwater

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Non-Profit/Government Partners

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City of Moore
City of Muskogee
City of Norman

Keep Oklahoma Beautiful
Metropolitan Environmental Trust
New View Oklahoma
Oklahoma Dept of Environmental Quality
Oklahoma State University
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Show, Inc.
Solid Waste Institute of NE Oklahoma
Town of Medicine Park
Tree Bank Foundation
Tulsa Master Recyclers
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If you notice any errors or have questions about your 2012 membership status, please email info@recycleok.org

OKRA membership runs on the calendar year, so please renew now for 2013. Go to www.recycleok.org/okra/get-involved/join-us and access the online membership form toward the bottom of the page. You then have a choice of paying online via PayPal or by mail (send checks to OKRA, PO Box 521154, Tulsa, OK 74152-1154).

If you are not an OKRA member, please consider joining. To learn about membership levels and member benefit details, such as discounts to OKRA events, download our membership brochure: www.recycleok.org/okra/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/BrochureWebsite.pdf.

Any questions, please email info@reycleok.org.

We appreciate your OKRA membership!

